

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

LESTER R. GEYER, JR.,
Administrator of the Estate of
LESTER R. GEYER, SR., Deceased

Claim No. CU-7416

Decision No. CU **5951**

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Represented by Cia. Azucarera Atlantica del Golfo

Counsel for Cia. Azucarera Atlantica del Golfo: Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby,
Palmer & Wood
By William C. Bush, Esq.

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, filed under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, was presented by LESTER R. GEYER, JR., Administrator of the Estate of LESTER R. GEYER, SR., Deceased, and is based upon the asserted loss of a stock interest. Claimant and decedent had been nationals of the United States since birth.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964) 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right, or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

Section 504 of the Act provides, as to ownership of claims, that

(a) A claim shall not be considered under section 503(a) of this title unless the property on which the claim was based was owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly by a national of the United States on the date of the loss and if considered shall be considered only to the extent the claim has been held by one or more nationals of the United States continuously thereafter until the date of filing with the Commission.

The Regulations of the Commission provide:

The claimant shall be the moving party and shall have the burden of proof on all issues involved in the determination of his claim. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. §531.6(d) (1969).)

Claim is based on 40 shares of stock of Atlantica del Golfo Sugar Company. The record reflects that claimant's father, Lester R. Geyer, Sr., and his stepmother Martha Geyer purchased 10 shares of Cuban Atlantic Sugar in 1942, and further that Lester R. Geyer, Sr., purchased another 10 shares of this stock in 1942. It appears that Martha Geyer died in December 1961 and it is said that the stock was put in the name of Lester R. Geyer, Sr., in February, 1962; and that in February, 1966, said Lester R. Geyer, Sr., died.


Although the records of the Commission indicate that Cuban Atlantic stock was exchanged for two shares of Atlantica del Golfo, the record does not establish the identity or nationality of the beneficial owners of the stock subject of this claim, at the time of loss, at the death of Lester R. Geyer, Sr., and continuously to March 15, 1967, when claim was opened on behalf of Atlantica stockholders.

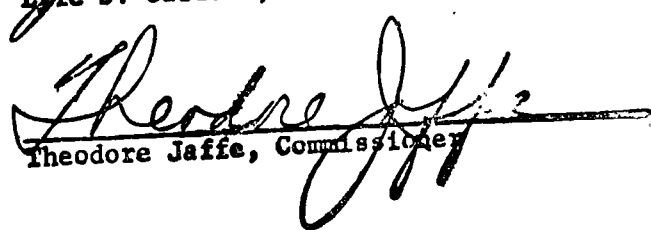
By Commission letter of March 20, 1968, claimant was advised, through counsel, as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Thereafter, by letters of April 30, 1969 and October 21, 1969, the Commission made additional suggestions to claimant, through counsel, concerning the submission of supporting evidence in this matter. Although claimant has communicated with the Commission, the requisite evidence has not been received.

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that he has failed to establish ownership of rights and interests in property which was nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba. Thus, the Commission is constrained to deny this claim and it is hereby denied. The Commission deems it unnecessary to make determinations with respect to other elements of the claim.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,
and entered as the Proposed
Decision of the Commission

NOV 10 1970


Lyle S. Garlock, Chairman


Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g) as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)

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